

Abstract of the Disclosure**CATHETER SUPPORT FOR STENT DELIVERY**

5 An angioplasty and stent delivery system to facilitate introduction and
placement of a stent, including a catheter having an expandable distal portion
constructed and arranged for expanding the outer diameter of the catheter from a
contracted state to an expanded state: a stent positioned around the distal portion of
the catheter having a contracted condition and being expandable to an expanded
condition, and being sized in the contracted condition to closely surround the catheter
10 in the contracted state, the expandable distal portion of the catheter including a
balloon within which or over which there is included on a catheter shaft at least one
axially movable or enlargeable body of a diameter larger than the catheter shaft to
which the stent and balloon are fitted, as by crimping, for holding the stent in place
until it is released therefrom by expansion of the balloon.

15